

Listing of Claims:

1.-2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented): A level adjustment circuit for adjusting the signal level of an audio signal, said level adjustment circuit comprising:

a digital level adjustment circuit for performing level adjustments by processing digital audio signals;

D/A converters for converting digital audio signals to analog audio signals; and

analog level adjustment circuits for performing level adjustments by processing obtained analog audio signals;

level adjustment is performed by said analog level adjustment circuit when a volume signal indicating an output level for audio signals indicates a high level exceeding a predetermined level; and

level adjustment is performed by said digital adjustment circuit when the volume signal for the level of the output signal indicates a low level that is lower than or equal to a predetermined level;

wherein said analog level adjustment circuit and digital level adjustment circuit perform level adjustments by varying levels in steps; and

wherein the steps in said analog level adjustment circuit are large in magnitude of decibel conversion compared to steps in said digital level adjustment circuit.

4. (Original): A level adjustment circuit for adjusting the signal level of audio signals, said level adjustment circuit comprising:

a digital level adjustment circuit for performing level adjustment by processing digital audio signals;

D/A converters for converting digital audio signals into analog audio signals;
and

analog level adjustments circuit for performing level adjustment by processing obtained analog audio signals;

a level adjustment step in said digital level adjustment circuit is set smaller than a level adjustment step in said analog level adjustment circuit; and

when changing levels, adjustments in small steps by the digital level adjustment circuit and adjustments in large steps of the analog level adjustment circuit are combined and level adjustments to a desired level are performed gradually in small steps by the digital level adjustment circuit.

5. (Original): A level adjustment circuit for adjusting the signal level of audio signals, said level adjustment circuit comprising:

a digital level adjustment circuit for performing level adjustments by processing digital audio signals;

D/A converters for converting digital audio signals to analog audio signals;
and

analog level adjustment circuits for performing level adjustment by processing obtained analog audio signals;

level adjustment is performed by said analog level adjustment circuit when a volume signal indicating an output level for audio signals indicates a high level exceeding a predetermined level;

level adjustment is performed by said digital adjustment circuit when the volume signal for the level of the output signal indicates a low level that is lower than or equal to a predetermined level; and

a level adjustment step in said digital level adjustment circuit is set smaller than a level adjustment step in said analog level adjustment circuit; and

when changing levels, adjustments in small steps by the digital level adjustment circuit and adjustments in large steps of the analog level adjustment circuit are combined and level adjustments to a desired level are performed gradually in small steps by the digital level adjustment circuit.

6. (Previously Presented): A level adjustment circuit according to claim 3 wherein steps in said digital level adjustment circuit are continuously fixed in magnitude of decibel conversion.